THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The amount sanctioned as Central Financial Assistance for projects prioritised in consultation with Union Territory of Pondicherry is as follows:

S.No.	Year	No.of projects	Amount sanctioned
			(Rupees in lakhs)
1	1997-98	4	35.64
2	1998-99	2	15.00
3	1999-2000	10	163.89

(b) and (c) The Union Territory of Pondicherry has utilised the amount of Rs.69.69 lakhs against the projects sanctioned.

Decline in foreign earnings through Tourism

1841. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign currency earnings through tourism has increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken by India Tourism Development Corporation to make increase in the foreign currency earnings?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism has increased by 9.1 per cent during the year 1999 as compared to the year 1998. The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the year 1998 and 1999 are Rs. 11,951 crores and Rs. 13,042 crores respectively.

(d) According to the information furnished by India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., various measures proposed to increase foreign exchange earnings include opening of new Duty Free Shops at Hyderabad, Calicut, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Varanasi and Goa.